

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 26, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 1, 2006

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 17, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2436

**Introduced by Assembly Member Ruskin
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Dymally)**

February 23, 2006

An act to add and repeal Section 3055 of the Penal Code, relating to parole.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2436, as amended, Ruskin. Imprisonment: parole: programs.

Existing law requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish 3 pilot programs to provide intensive training and counseling to female parolees to help the parolees reintegrate into society.

This bill would require the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to establish a pilot program in East Palo Alto for parolees returning to East Palo Alto which would conduct needs-based assessments of the individual parolees, partner with East Palo Alto police officers, and blend enforcement and programming services, as specified. *The bill would require the department to report to the Legislature and the Governor not later than January 1, 2009, on the effectiveness of the program, as specified. The bill would state its operation is contingent upon consent by the City of East Palo Alto to participate in the pilot program.* The bill would also provide that these provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2010.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the
- 2 following:
- 3 (a) Support services provided to parolees helps the parolee
- 4 reintegrate into society and reduces recidivism rates.
- 5 (b) The creation of a pilot program in East Palo Alto will help
- 6 the Legislature determine the effectiveness of the program.
- 7 SEC. 2. Section 3055 is added to the Penal Code, to read:
- 8 ~~3055. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall~~
- 9 ~~establish a pilot program in East Palo Alto that does all of the~~
- 10 ~~following:~~
- 11 ~~(a) Conduct evidence based needs assessments of parolees~~
- 12 ~~returning to East Palo Alto to determine individualized program~~
- 13 ~~needs.~~
- 14 ~~(b) Increase communication and partnership between parole~~
- 15 ~~agents and East Palo Alto police officers.~~
- 16 ~~(c) Blend enforcement and programming services both~~
- 17 ~~prerelease and postrelease.~~
- 18 ~~(d) Assign one parole agent as a liaison to the East Palo Alto~~
- 19 ~~police department.~~
- 20 ~~(e) Assign and cross-train five police officer from the Palo~~
- 21 ~~Alto Police Department to work with the parole agent to assist~~
- 22 ~~with parole enforcement and program service delivery, as~~
- 23 ~~follows:~~
- 24 ~~(1) Four officers; one from each beat.~~
- 25 ~~(2) One detective from the Criminal Investigations Division.~~
- 26 ~~(f) Form a specialized team consisting of parole agents and~~
- 27 ~~East Palo Alto police officers. The team would be responsible for~~
- 28 ~~the following:~~
- 29 ~~(1) Identify and supervise all parolees in East Palo Alto.~~
- 30 ~~(2) Develop a reentry protocol that requires personal~~
- 31 ~~prerelease contact with prisoners returning to East Palo Alto at~~
- 32 ~~least six months before their release. The COMPAS program,~~
- 33 ~~unless software is changed, would be utilized in this process.~~
- 34 ~~During the prerelease visit, the following shall occur:~~
- 35 ~~(A) A formal introduction.~~

1 ~~(B) A reentry assessment of the prisoner, including, but not~~
2 ~~limited to the following issues:~~

- 3 ~~(i) Education.~~
- 4 ~~(ii) Employment.~~
- 5 ~~(iii) Substance dependency.~~
- 6 ~~(iv) Residency verification.~~
- 7 ~~(v) Credentials.~~
- 8 ~~(vi) Psychological evaluation.~~

9 ~~(C) Develop a reentry plan to assist the prisoner with his or her~~
10 ~~reentry into the community, and shall include, but is not limited~~
11 ~~to, the following:~~

- 12 ~~(i) Provide assistance getting identification.~~
- 13 ~~(ii) Provide job training and placement services.~~
- 14 ~~(iii) Assist with residency.~~
- 15 ~~(iv) Identify rehabilitation and psychological services needs.~~
- 16 ~~(v) Identify community-based support systems for the prisoner~~
17 ~~before release.~~

18 ~~(g) Develop an enforcement plan in which the parole and~~
19 ~~police team conducts the following:~~

- 20 ~~(1) Home visits.~~
- 21 ~~(2) Chemical testing.~~
- 22 ~~(3) Residency verification.~~
- 23 ~~(4) Referrals to necessary support services.~~
- 24 ~~(h) Designate an existing facility, such as Free at Last, as an~~
25 ~~East Palo Alto parole "reception center" which would be~~
26 ~~responsible for the following:~~

27 ~~(1) Conducting initial check-in to the community for returning~~
28 ~~parolees.~~

29 ~~(2) Provide transitional housing and support services for~~
30 ~~parolees returning to the community who may need additional~~
31 ~~assistance during reentry.~~

32 ~~(3) Provide in-house counseling services.~~

33 ~~(4) Identify services available to parolees based on the~~
34 ~~rerelease assessment.~~

35 ~~(5) Serve as a resource center for the parolees.~~

36 ~~(6) Facilitate community-based organization efforts to assist~~
37 ~~parolees.~~

38 ~~(7) Conduct monthly meeting and evaluations with the~~
39 ~~parolees.~~

40 ~~(8) Act as a detox center, as necessary.~~

~~(i) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall complete a report that evaluates the cost-effectiveness of the prerelease program with respect to the effect of the program on the recidivism rate of the participants. The department shall submit that report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, and to the Governor, no later than January 1, 2009.~~

~~(j)~~

3055. *(a) The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, to the extent existing resources are available or additional resources for these purposes are appropriated, shall establish a reentry program in the City of East Palo Alto.*

(b) The reentry program may include, but is not limited to, the following components:

(1) A prerelease needs assessment of inmates scheduled to parole to East Palo Alto.

(2) A partnership between parole agents and local law enforcement officers in supervising parolees released to East Palo Alto.

(3) Development of a reentry plan identifying services needed by the parolee.

(4) A partnership with local community organizations and service providers to provide support services to parolees such as transitional housing, job training, or placement, or substance abuse treatment.

(c) The department shall complete a report that evaluates the cost effectiveness of the prerelease program with respect to the effect of the program on the recidivism rate of the participants. The department shall submit the report to the appropriate policy and fiscal committees of the Legislature, and to the Governor, no later than January 1, 2009.

(d) This section shall become operative only upon the consent of the City of East Palo Alto to participate in the pilot program.

(e) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2010,, and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that is enacted before January 1, 2010, deletes or extends that date.

O